THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) The average cost per hour for medium helicopters with a seating capacity of 10 to 12 persons, is Rs. 11,515 including cost of fuel, and for large helicopters with a seating capacity of 17 to 23 persons is Rs. 16,044 including cost of fuel.

(b) and (c) The cost of operation of Dauphin and Westland helicopters has not yet been finalised by the Helicopter Corporation of India, so the question of subsidy does not arise.

Prices of Becasole capsules

*88. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Becasole capsules and Surbex-T tablets are being sold at very high prices;

(b) what are the prices fixed for each of these preparations and at what prices the same are being sold;

(c) what are the reasons for overcharging and what action has been taken against the manufacturers of these medicines;

(d) whether it is also a fact that apart from over-charging the prices, the manufacturers of these products have also violated the provisions of IDR Act, the Drug Price Control order, 1979 and also the conditions of re-endorsement of capacities and industrial licences; and

(e) if so, what are the details of each and what action has been taken against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b) Based on the decisions of the Bombay High Court, M|s. Pfizer Ltd. were selling Becasule capsules 20's pack at Rs. 8.85 and 100's pack at Rs. 33.13 and M|s. Abbott Labs. Pvt. Ltd. were selling Subrex-T Tablets 25's pack at Rs. 9.88 and 100's pack at Rs. 33.00. Following the directions of the Court, the prices of Becasules Capsules 20's bottle and 100's bottle have been refixed at Rs. 7.58 and 33.30 respectively W.e.f. 10th March, 1986 and in the case of M/s Abbott Labs. for Surbex-T Tablets 20's bottle and 100's bottle at Rs. 8.08 and Rs. 29.18 respectively w.e.f. 13th March, 1986. Both the companies have again represented against the prices thus refixed.

(c) The two manufacturers have been charging the price as allowed to them by the High Court.

(d) and (e) M|s. Abbott Labs. India Ltd. was issued a show cause notice for non-fulfilment of the condition regarding ratio parameters which was imposed while allowing re-endorsement of capacity to the company.

Improvement in Telephones services

*89. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to improve the telephone services in Delhi and other parts of the country during the last one year; and

(b) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps to curb absenteeism among the Delhi telephones' staff and to introduce improvements in telephone services; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) A number of steps like replacement of outlived exchanges, induction of electronic local and trunk exchanges digital microwave and PCM junction circuits and computerisation of auto-manual services like directory enquiry have been implemented.

(b) Yes, Sir. Deployment of Reserved Trained Pool in incentive schemes on experimental basis have been implemented to counter the effect of absenteeism and to increase the outturn.

LPG Agencies to Technically qualified people

*90. SHRI N. RAJANGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether technically qualified persons and educated unemployed youths have been given encouragement in the allotment of L.P.G. gas agencies in the country; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) A reservation for Unemployed Graduates|Unemployed Engineering Graduates (UG|UEG) to the extent of 25 per cent exists in the allotment of LPG distributorships. Between 1982-83 and 1985-86, out of a total planned number of 2017 LPG distributorships in the country, 502 were reserved for the UG|UEG category.

Exploration of oil in off-shore and on-shore areas

*91 SHRI T. CHANDRASHEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the experts in the oil sector have cautioned his Ministry to ensure that the current low oil prices in the international market does not become a detriment to exploratory efforts for oil in the Indian off-shore and on-shore areas;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking in the light of low oil prices in the international market for accelerating exploration drive;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of equipment and services have fallen sharply in the wake of oil glut; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take the advantage of the decline in prices mentioned in part (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Government keeps a close watch on the trends and developments in the international oil markets. At present, Government proposes to maintain the 7th Five-Year Plan strategy to intensify exploration efforts in both on-shore and off-shore areas.

(c) and (d) International price of oil field equipment and services have been declining over last several months. Oil companies will take maximum possible advantage of these conditions in their procurement of equipment and services consistent with our policy of supporting efficient indigenisation of oil field equipment and services.

Telephone Corporation for Delhi and Bombay

*92. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the composition of the Board of Directors of the recently established Telephone Corporation for Delhi and Bombay;

(b) what would be its area of operation and its relations with the parent department;

(c) the number of employees and officers who are proposed to be transferred to this Corporation; and

(d) whether they would be guaranteed protection of their service conditions especially in the matter of seniority, promotion and emoluments etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF